



United States
Department of
Agriculture

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Marketing and
Regulatory
Programs

Animal and Plant
Health Inspection
Service

Washington, DC
20250

Dr. Kazimieras Lukauskas
Director
State Food and Veterinary Service
Siesiku Str 19
LT-2010 Vilnius
LITHUANIA

Dear Dr. Lukauskas:

Thank you for your letter and its enclosed information regarding classical swine fever (CSF) and swine vesicular disease (SVD) in Lithuania. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Regionalization Evaluation Services is in the process of reviewing the information.

Prior to the accession of the new Member States to the European Union (EU), APHIS could work directly with Lithuanian veterinary officials. However, the European Commission (EC) has requested that APHIS communicate with Member States through EC representatives. Since Lithuania is now a Member State of the EU, APHIS must honor this request and work through the EC in order to proceed with this evaluation.

With regard to CSF, APHIS intends to address the ten new Member States both individually and as a unit. This approach was discussed among members of the EC/US Veterinary Agreement Animal Health Technical Working Group on April 19, 2004, and was outlined in a letter to Mr. Checchi Lang dated August 6, 2004. A copy of the letter is enclosed for your reference. As part of this process, APHIS still plans to conduct an evaluation based on the 11 factors outlined in Title 9, *Code of Federal Regulations*, Section 92.2 (9 CFR 92.2), focusing on infrastructure, surveillance, and risk factors for the introduction and spreading of CSF. The information that Lithuania has provided to date will be invaluable in this regard, although additional information may be necessary to complete the analysis.

Please keep in mind that the regulatory process, even after the initial document review, site visit, and assessment of risk are done, can take between 2 and 3 years to complete.

Lithuania has also requested to be considered free from SVD and foot-and-mouth disease. APHIS will continue to move forward with these specific evaluations on an individual basis; however, all future correspondence must be done through the EC.



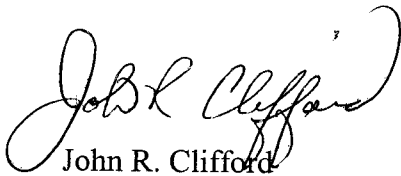
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Dr. Kazimieras Lukauskas

2

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John R. Clifford". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Enclosure

Dr. Kazimieras Lukauskas

2

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

/s/ John R. Clifford for

John R. Clifford
Deputy Administrator
Veterinary Services

Enclosure

cc:

R. Iwamoto, IS, Washington, DC

J. Greifer, TST, Washington, DC

JRC
9/14/04

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